

The Queen's Commemoration Fund.

It will be remembered that Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen, most generously, and most characteristically, devoted to the well-being of her subjects a large proportion of the "Women's Jubilee Offering." The Women of Great Britain and Ireland subscribed in all £80,000 as a mark of their loyalty and devotion to their Sovereign when she had reigned over the Empire for fifty years, and with the exception of £10,000 which Her Majesty expended upon an equestrian statue of the late Prince Consort, the whole sum was used, by the Queen's desire, to found the "Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses." This Institution has for its object the nursing of the sick poor in their own homes by refined and educated gentlewomen, now universally known as "Queen's Nurses."

It has been felt, therefore, that the most appropriate commemoration of the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign, and one which will be most in accordance with Her Majesty's wishes, is, by augmenting the funds of this most useful Institution, to increase its powers of usefulness, and, in short, to place the Institute on a national basis.

By invitation of the Duke of Westminster, a preliminary meeting, with the view of furthering this end, was held at Grosvenor House on Wednesday, December 16th, at 4 p.m. There was a large and representative gathering, including the Archbishop-Elect of Canterbury, Cardinal Vaughan, the Chief Rabbi, the Earl of Strafford, the Earl of Lauderdale, Viscount Sidmouth, Lord Glenesk, Lord Thring, Lord Wolverton, Lord Harris, the Lord Lieutenants of several counties, many provincial Mayors, the Hon. Secretaries, Mr. Harold Bolton and Mr. Ernest Flower, M.P., and the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Sydney Holland.

The Chair was occupied by the Duke of Westminster who, in the course of his opening remarks, said that thousands, and even millions of Her Majesty's subjects, would be of one mind in a desire to celebrate, in the most fitting way, the longest, most glorious, and best reign in English history; that any scheme which had this for its object must be permanent in its character, national in its object, wide-spreading in its influence, and most important of all, pleasing to the Queen herself. He then proceeded to point out how the scheme, which the meeting had assembled to support, fulfilled all these requirements. He spoke of the condition of Nursing at the time of the Crimean War, from personal recollection, and reminded his

audience of the noble work done by Miss Florence Nightingale at that period. He also read a letter from Miss Nightingale heartily approving of the proposed scheme, and expressing her readiness to further its ends.

The Hon. Sydney Holland (the newly-appointed Chairman of the London Hospital), the Hon. Treasurer of the Fund, then addressed the meeting, and stated that although a subscription list had not yet been formally opened, £18,000 had already been promised. This included the following donations:—

Mr. Henry Tate (2nd donation) ...	£5,000
His Grace the Duke of Westminster	1,000
Messrs. N. de Rothschild	1,000
Mr. W. Rathbone	1,000
Mr. Howard Morley	1,000
Mr. Overton Wills	1,000
Mr. Arnold Hills	1,000
The Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P. ...	750
Mr. Alfred Beit	500
His Grace the Duke of Bedford ...	500
Earl Cadogan	500
Messrs. Glynn, Mills, Currie & Co.	500
Messrs. Antony Gibbs	500
His Grace the Duke of Fife ...	300
His Grace the Duke of Norfolk ...	200
The Earl of Crewe	200
A friend, per Mr. Howard Morley	200

making a total of £15,150

in addition to which there were smaller donations.

Mr. Holland further announced that the Lord Lieutenants of 18 counties, and the Lord Mayors, Lord Provosts, and Mayors of 46 towns had promised to call meetings and open subscription-lists next year. (Subscriptions may at present be sent to the Duke of Westminster at Grosvenor House, or to the Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretaries at the offices of the Fund, 64, Cannon Street, E.C.)

The Archbishop-Elect of Canterbury spoke warmly in favour of the scheme, and stated that the Queen's Nurses throughout the country already numbered nearly 600, but far more were needed to meet adequately the needs of the sick poor.

Cardinal Vaughan, the Rev. A. L. B. Peile (the Master of St. Katherine's), and Lord Glenesk also addressed the meeting, and a Resolution, proposed by the Chief Rabbi, and seconded by Mr. Arnold Hills, approving of the creation of local committees, was put to the meeting and carried.

It may well be a cause of gratification to the women who contributed to the Jubilee Offering that, with her keen comprehension of, and sympathy with, the needs of her people, the Queen graciously devoted their gifts to the alleviation of the sufferings of the sick poor, and deputed

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